

# DOINGWHATWORKS

## SLIDESHOW

Full Details and Transcript



## Any Student Can Be Ready for College

KIPP Delta College Preparatory School,  
Arkansas

February 2011

**Topic**    **HELPING STUDENTS NAVIGATE THE PATH TO COLLEGE**

**Practice**    **FOSTER COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS**

- Highlights**
- » At KIPP Delta College Preparatory School, college options and college academics are introduced early in middle school so that college becomes an expectation for all students.
  - » Students are given opportunities to listen to alumni and visualize what college is like, which helps them become familiar with the idea of college.
  - » Students complete academic activities similar to what they will receive in college in order to prepare for the academic rigor they will experience.

**About the Site**    **KIPP Delta College Preparatory School  
Helena, AR**

Demographics:

- » 99% Black
- » 1% White
- » 90% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- » 3% Special Education

(National Office for Research on Measurement and Evaluation Systems, Arkansas School Performance Report, 2009)

KIPP Delta College Preparatory School aims to close the achievement gap, get all students on track for graduation, and develop their college-going aspirations. The school attributes its academic success to:

- » A longer school day, Saturday school, and a mandatory three-week summer school
- » Needs-based academic remediation and a choice of extracurricular enrichment during after-school hours
- » Instruction and academic support tailored to students' mastery level
- » Continual assessment to determine students' need for academic supports

## Full Transcript

## Presentation Title: Any Student Can Be Ready for College

KIPP Delta College Preparatory School, Arkansas



At KIPP Delta College Preparatory School in Helena, Arkansas, the main focus is college access. Staff members explain the value of education and maintain high expectations for student success.



### Slide 1: Explaining the expectations: KIPPmitization

**Text:** The goal of KIPP Delta College Preparatory School is to form a college-going culture for students early in middle school. School Director Jemar Tisby sets expectations for students to attend college and become successful.

**Audio:** What we try to do from day one—we call it KIPPmitization—when brand-new students come to our school, we take two to three days out just to talk about the expectations and just to talk about college. That's when we introduce the idea that the reason you're here, the reason why you're doing all this work, the reason why we want you to excel at such a high degree is so that you can get to and through college, so you can be anything you want to be in life.



## Slide 2: Exposure to college

**Text:** Many students at KIPP Delta College Preparatory School are not familiar with or have had limited exposure to college; therefore the school works to describe college and explain available college options.

**Audio:** Exposure is important because we want to make sure that students know the broad array of options available to them. We also need to give them a vision for college and what college academics might look like.



## Slide 3: Making college real

**Text:** In order to see what college is like, students take trips to different college campuses and have the opportunity to listen to alumni's experiences and perspectives.

**Audio:** The earlier you start, the more it becomes simply an expectation. The more that they can go visit colleges, hear from college alumni, get a picture of what college is and what college can do for them, then it becomes much more of an expectation. It becomes much more of an exciting thing for them to set their goals on. It becomes real. It just becomes more real.



## Slide 4: College as an engine and a doorway

**Text:** Another emphasis of KIPP Delta College Preparatory School is to foster students' interests. Staff members provide opportunities to explore these interests and help students recognize that attending college will allow them to pursue their passions.

**Audio:** We're truly trying to prepare students not only for college, but for life. And every person has something that they can be passionate about, something that they're really talented in. And we want to make sure that we give students the opportunity, K through 12, to find that talent, to find that passion, and to use college as an

engine and as a doorway into further opportunities with that talent or that passion.



### Slide 5: Preparing students for college

 **Text:** Students are given assignments comparable to what they will receive in college. Completing similar activities, such as reading hundreds of pages and writing multiple-page essays, is one way to get ready for the academic rigor of college.

 **Audio:** How we try to prepare students for college is to give them as much of the college experience as we can at an appropriate level for their grade. We want students to go to college prepared to handle reading hundreds of pages, writing multiple-page essays, working constantly throughout the year, managing their own time.



### Slide 6: Recognizing growth

 **Text:** Throughout the school year teachers observe student progress and make sure to commend high-quality work. Although some students may advance at a different pace, the school believes all students will make progress.

 **Audio:** As the students progress on their assessments, we'll regroup periodically. And we really can celebrate that because it shows, "Look, you put forth the hard work. You put forth the effort. Look at the progress you made. Wherever you are, you put forth the effort and you will make progress. It might not always be at the same pace as someone else, but you will make progress."



### Slide 7: Smart is something you get

 **Text:** Students are measured by the amount of effort put forth and not simply by their intelligence. As students increase their efforts, they begin to accelerate their academic growth.

 **Audio:** What we say to the students is that there are no smart kids, there are no dumb kids. There are students who work hard and

students who haven't worked hard enough yet. So we say to the kids, "Smart is not something you are. Smart is something you get."



### Slide 8: Effort counts

**Text:** KIPP Delta College Preparatory School provides students with appropriate opportunities and motivation to go to college. The school's overarching goal is not just to get students to college but also to give them the tools necessary to succeed in college.

**Audio:** It takes practice and it takes effort. So what we try to teach the kids is that it doesn't matter where you begin, it's the amount of effort that you put forth. And with the right practice, with the right feedback, with the right amount of time, any student can excel. Any student can be ready for college.